

## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter of claim 13.

Applicant now addresses the Examiner's claim objections. In claim 11, the Examiner objects to usage of the word "bore" and the phrase "actuates like a ring." In response Applicant amends the claim to recite a "core" as opposed to "bore," and removes the phrase "actuates like a ring." As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the objections are overcome.

### Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner rejects claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by United States Patent Number 5,271,426 to Clarkson.

Applicant's amended claim 8 recites, "sealing elements [that] are interchangeable, hollow in their *entire construction circumference*, and produced of elastomer." Clarkson does not teach sealing elements that are hollow in their entire construction circumference. Instead, at column 4, lines 23-31, Clarkson teaches a sleeve 51 that "may be advantageously formed initially in a mold with a plurality of pins spaced at intervals along the circumference of the sleeve mold and with such pins being in contact at their inner ends with the stiffener ring 62. Upon removal from the mold and withdrawal of the pins, as shown in FIGS. 7 and 8, a plurality of internal compression openings or holes 40 are provided and a side wall portion of the stiffener ring 62 projects into each of the openings 40." These holes 40 can be seen in Figures 7 and 8 of Clarkson, which show that the holes 40 *are not* disposed to extend through the *entire construction circumference* of the sleeve 51. As such, the sleeve 51 is not hollow in its entire construction circumference. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Clarkson does not teach every element of claim 8, or claims 9-10 that depend therefrom.

It should be noted that sealing elements that are hollow in their entire construction circumference are advantageous over usual mass reduction solutions, such as the use of mould pins in Clarkson. This advantage is apparent, at least, in that a better flexibility to the piece is achieved, permitting a better absorption of the mass of elastomer, particularly when pressed during the closing movement of the guillotine. A better fastness is also achieved by the hollow construction, which is particularly advantageous in that it allows the sealing elements to return to their original form when the valve is opened. The shape of the sealing elements are also held in function of wings via the internal elastomer made by the mould and parts of the hollow cavity, as well as through the internal metallic draught.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Clarkson in view of United States Patent Number 3,333,816 to Williams.

Since claim 11 depends from claim 8, for at least the reasons set forth in Applicant's Remarks pertaining to the 102 rejections, Clarkson does not teach every element of Applicant's claim 11. As Williams does not remedy the addressed deficiencies of Clarkson (i.e., Williams does not teach sealing elements that are hollow in their entire construction circumference), Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is not obvious over the combination of Clarkson and Williams.

Furthermore, Williams does not teach a flexible "T." In Williams, the two elements that form the "T" are joined by weld, gluing, etc. whereas the insert exemplary to Applicant's disclosure is composed by two discharged pieces that allows flexibility of the sealing elements, such that they may move under the blade.

The non-flexible relationship of the Williams "T" is taught at column 3, lines 24-30, which discloses, "Figure 4 best shows the specific construction of a seat member. There it is apparent that a rigid reinforcing member is embedded within the body 61 and

bead 63 of the seat member. The reinforcing element is of annular form and comprises a flat annular member 101 and a ring member 103, *permanently* secured together in coaxial relationship. The Williams member 103 has a diameter slightly greater than the internal ring of the annular member 101 and is secured to one side face of the annular member 101.” Therefore, the teaching of Williams discloses a permanently secured “T” instead of the apart and independent portions claimed by Applicant.

The Examiner also rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Clarkson in view of United States Patent Number 3,367,625 to Fortune.

As with claim 11, since claim 12 depends from claim 8, for at least the reasons set forth in Applicant’s Remarks pertaining to the 102 rejections, Clarkson does not teach every element of Applicant’s claim 12. As Fortune does not remedy the addressed deficiencies of Clarkson (i.e., Fortune does not teach sealing elements that are hollow in their entire construction circumference), Applicant respectfully submits that claim 12 is not obvious over the combination of Clarkson and Fortune.

Furthermore, referring to Figure 3 of Fortune, where the disclosed sealing element may be made by steel, bronze or inflexible plastic, and is the guide and sealing element of the guillotine. Applicant’s valve may include a guide ring that is fitted in the body of the valve and can be easily replaced (i.e., it is interchangeable). This guide is not the sealing element. The sealings are made by the molded in elastomer, and are maintained in permanent contact among themselves when the guillotine is closed. Thus, the sealing and guide functions are made by different pieces in the valve of Fortune than they are in Applicant’s disclosure.

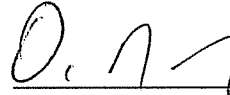
Applicant respectfully submits that the objections and rejection are herein overcome by way of the above amendments and remarks. Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. §§1.136, 1.137 for any extension of time necessary for entry and consideration of the present Response.

If there are any charges with respect to this amendment, or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicant's attorneys.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorneys at the below telephone number regarding this Response or otherwise concerning the present application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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